Dear Friends,

Sixty years ago this coming June, the following announcement from the Ohioana Library appeared in a number of newspapers throughout the state of Ohio:

NEW MAGAZINE TO BOOST OHIO AUTHORS AND BOOKS
(Columbus, Ohio, June 25, 1957) – A new magazine, to deal with Ohio books and authors and tell Ohio’s cultural story, will be published by the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association, it was announced today. The magazine will be called Ohioana: Of Ohio and Ohioans and will appear quarterly. The first issue is scheduled for March 1958. Contents will include articles, book reviews, news and notes about Ohio authors, some work by Ohio artists, and perhaps an extract from a forthcoming book. Walter Rumsey Marvin, executive director of the library, will serve as managing editor.

Thus was born the Ohioana Quarterly. This issue marks the start of its 60th year of publication. Although the look, size, and layout of the Quarterly has undergone numerous changes over the years, its purpose has remained the same: to promote Ohio authors and books.

We start the next sixty years off with two special features. First, our cover story by Bryan Loar about the Mercantile Library in Cincinnati, the third in our “Ohio Literary Landmarks” series. Since 1835, “The Merc” has served as the literary center of the Queen City, playing host to some of the greatest writers in the world. Special thanks to the wonderful staff of the Mercantile Library and to Buck Niehoff for their help in making this story possible.

Our second feature is an interview with Donald Ray Pollock. Since he burst on the scene in 2008 with Knockemstiff (named for his hometown near Chillicothe), Pollock has become one of America’s most acclaimed writers. Michelle Gubola talks to Pollock about his latest novel, The Heavenly Table.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Here’s to our next sixty years—happy reading!

David Weaver
Executive Director
Ohioana Quarterly

Winter 2017

by Bryan Loar

Steeped in a rich history that includes visits by Harriet Beecher Stowe and Herman Melville, the Mercantile Library is an incredible, contemporary resource open to all. One of the few remaining subscription libraries in the country, the library supports an incredible collection of monographs and art while providing extraordinary public programming.

Promoting a Spirit of Useful Inquiry

Celebrated as the oldest continuously operating library west of Philadelphia, the Mercantile Library, originally known as the Young Men’s Mercantile Library Association, was established in 1835 by forty-five merchants and clerks in Cincinnati, Ohio. At a time when public school systems had not yet been adopted and social class systems remained, these enterprising men built a library to educate and improve the lives of its members. In his book At the Center: 175 Years at the Mercantile Library, Robert C. Vitz describes the pursuit of these self-made men as a means to democratize knowledge and create a local networking system.

Membership originally targeted the mercantile class within accounting, banking, insurance, and manufacturing. Over time, membership expanded to other industries. In 1850 women started joining as non-voting honorary members, and in 1872 the first African-American member joined.

The library was originally located on the second floor of the Independent Fire Engine and Hose Company building. However, the quarters proved challenging during the summer heat, causing the library to close and lose potential memberships. In the spring of 1840, the association moved into the Cincinnati College building, sharing quarters with the Medical College of Ohio, Cincinnati Law College, and the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. Fire destroyed the college’s building in January 1845, but the quick actions of library members saved the portrait of William Henry Harrison and all but seventy-eight volumes of the collection. The college rebuilt on the same location, and the library committed to raising $10,000 for the effort. In doing so, the library bargained for a renewable 10,000-year lease to the grounds—a lease authored by none other than Alphonso Taft, father to U.S. President William Howard Taft.

Fire struck again in 1869, and, again, most of the collection was spared. In 1870 the Cincinnati College was rebuilt. After thirty-one years in a structure that was becoming increasingly outdated, Cincinnati College and the library were approached by Thomas Emery’s Sons, a company that built its fortune on pork byproducts and then real estate. The Emerys wanted to build a modern edifice on the location, and the Mercantile Library, still owner of the lease, negotiated its placement on the top two floors along with exclusive use of an elevator. As a way to further entice the library to move into a new building, the Emerys suggested the building’s name honor the library. In 1904, the Mercantile Library opened in a handsome space with stunning views that still delights.

From the turn of the century to the late 1960s, the library went into dormancy and membership dropped to a low of 323. However, when new director Jean Springer arrived in 1969, her enthusiasm, programming ideas, and media savvy helped reinvigorate the library. She revived lectures by major literary figures and appealed to younger members through progressive parties. Springer’s tenure lasted twenty-four years, during which time she doubled membership and reimagined the library’s relevance.

Over the next twenty-two years, under the leadership of Albert Pyle, the Mercantile Library expanded programming to include civic discussions; significantly increased attendance to the library’s premier fundraiser, the Niefi8oh Lectures; grew membership to over 1,000; and completed major updates, including the reuse of the twelfth floor as a lecture room.

Today, membership is affordable, open to all, and enjoyed by more than 2,500 intellectually curious individuals. Executive Director John Fahlert, Collector Cedric Rose, Literary Programs and Marketing Manager Amy Hunter, and library staff are energetic and actively pushing the library forward. The Mercantile Library continues to support personal improvement and the exploration of contemporary ideas through an adaptive and open space, a notable collection, inspiring art, and extraordinary programs.

Classically Contemporary

The renovated Mercantile Library is a light-filled architectural gem. While accents give the library a Victorian feel, the light, open, and adaptable space is in line with today’s leading library trends.
As visitors exit the elevator, they are greeted with the brightly-hued walls of the anteroom, which contrast with the silky white marble of Joseph Mozier’s statue *Silence* and complement the rich wood tones of the entrance. A wall of arched windows generously illuminates the reading room by day and transforms into a glimmering vista at night.

On the north side, original iron and glass floors house a second story of stacks. The translucent, aquamarine glass flooring creates an ethereal effect and provides additional lighting for the floor below. Nearby desks for staff on the 11th floor are open and accessible, and displays highlight new arrivals.

Near the circulation area, a beautiful spiral staircase leads to the 12th floor lecture room. The room is richly decorated in Art Nouveau style and houses some of the first books collected by the library. Visitors immediately notice the hand-painted names of literary greats that have been Mercantile Library speakers.

Back down on the 11th floor, the center of the library is dedicated to the reading room, which is open, spacious, and flexible. Periodicals and rotating exhibits are found on movable displays, while ample seating is located on the library’s windowed east wall. At the southern end, the library supports renovated stacks, a historic Steinway piano, and a performance stage. The room has hosted a multitude of events, including the library’s first Niehoff Lectures.

**A Refined Collection**

The Mercantile Library boasts a general collection of more than 80,000 volumes. The collection continues to grow under the direction of Collector Cedric Rose, including access to a range of e-books. Recent acquisitions include Pulitzer Prize and Ohioana Award winner Anthony Doerr’s *All the Light We Cannot See* and works by past Niehoff lecturer and New York Times journalist David Brooks.

Historically, the library’s collection focused broadly on science and literature—any title that would support the technical or cultural improvement of the library’s membership. At times, special appropriations were made, and bequests directed collection development. For example, shortly after the Civil War in 1866, the library focused heavily on the fine arts, particularly illustrated works and books about the history of engraving and printing. That same year, a bequest directed the library to collect “light fiction.” The library’s board interpreted the wishes to mean the best editions of American and British authors, and the library purchased nearly 600 tomes the following year.

Other times, the collection grew by merger. In 1882, the Ex Army and Navy Officers’ Society loaned a collection of military books and memoirs to the library as a special collection. Because the society was created for Civil War veterans, the expectation was that the works would become part of the library’s permanent collection once the society ceased to exist.

Through a series of commissions and gifts, the art collection grew handsomely before the Civil War. Personal letters from U.S. Presidents George Washington and John Adams were obtained, and many paintings and sculptures were acquired. Notable acquisitions include the library’s prized marble replica of Joseph Mozier’s *Silence* and Shobal Vail Cleveenger’s original marble bust of President William H. Harrison, also a Mercantile Library member. A stately bust of Abraham Lincoln was sculpted by Thomas Dow Jones. Lincoln sat for Jones, once a Cincinnati resident, just prior to his presidency. Jones noted that Lincoln even wrote parts of his inauguration speech while Jones sculpted. A painting of U.S. Senator Edward Everett by Joseph Oriel Eaton hangs near the library’s entrance. Everett famously preceded Abraham Lincoln with a two-hour oration before Lincoln’s two-minute Gettysburg Address. Unfortunately, the library’s ambitions to collect pieces of fine art and unique curiosities were not sustainable. The war and the growth of other economic and industrial centers contracted Cincinnati’s aspirations and the library’s ability to collect.

With the advent of renewed programming and membership growth over the last twenty-nine years, the Mercantile Library’s art collection has been reenergized. Busts of Robert Frost and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow as well as sketchbooks by Cincinnati artist Elizabeth Nourse have been acquired. A contemporary portrait of H.C. Buck Niehoff by painter Stacey Davidson and a bust of Harriet Beecher Stowe were commissioned. For the Stowe bust, the library partnered with sculptor Walter Driesbach to honor the 150th anniversary of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. The limestone bust was unveiled at the inaugural Harriet Beecher Stowe Festival in Cincinnati.
The Niehoff Lectures have given Patti and me the opportunity to share our greatest intellectual heroes, from Ray Bradbury and Julia Child to Seamus Heaney and Sir Salman Rushdie...Life just doesn't get any better than that.
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Dynamic Programming

From yoga classes to literary masters of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries, the Mercantile Library demonstrates its forward thinking through vibrant literary programs, discussion groups, and signature events.

Niehoff Lectures

Established in 1986 at the suggestion of benefactors H.C. Buck and Patricia Niehoff, the lecture series presents a significant literary figure each year. The black-tie dinner and lecture raises important funds for the library’s operations as a collecting institution and literary center. Past speakers include recipients of the Pulitzer Prize, Emmy Award, National Book Award, Man Booker Prize, and other notable awards. The series enters its 30th year in 2017.

Since its inception, the series has hosted some of the greatest literary and entertainment figures of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Emmy Award-winning actor Jonathan Winters has the dual distinctions of being the inaugural speaker and the only lecturer to appear twice. Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient and Peabody Award-winning chef Julia Child encouraged her audience to “be free, to love, to create, and to be truly alive.” Pulitzer Prize-winning author Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. praised public figures for their courage to criticize government in times of war. And National Medal of Arts author Ray Bradbury opened, “You have before you a book lover, a library lover.”

For 2016, the Niehoff Lecture showcased world-renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin. Goodwin has written the critically acclaimed and best-selling Doris Kearns Goodwin. Goodwin has written the critically acclaimed and best-selling

Literary Center of the Region

The Mercantile Library is a jewel in Ohio’s Queen City and the nation. With a rich history and a vibrant future, the Mercantile Library continues to create a legacy of excellence by promoting literature and ideas, advancing interest in the written word, and celebrating the best in literary achievement. Learn more about this incredible literary landmark at www.mercantilibrary.com.

Special thanks to H.C. Buck Niehoff and the Mercantile Library’s Amy Hunter, Cedric Rose, and John Faherty for their help with this article.
An Interview with Donald Ray Pollock
by Michelle Gubola

Donald Ray Pollock grew up and lives in Ross County, Ohio. After a career as a laborer and truck driver at a Chillicothe paper mill, at age 50 Mr. Pollock enrolled in a writing program at The Ohio State University and published his short story collection, Knockemstiff. His first novel, The Devil All the Time, was named one of Publishers Weekly’s Top Ten Books of 2011. Mr. Pollock recently spoke with the Ohioana Quarterly about his new book, The Heavenly Table.

Q: Can I remember reading a paperback book about Bonnie and Clyde. And I read that thing over and over—I don’t know how many times. It got all frayed. I think I was around 14 when I first read it.

A: When I was very young we didn’t have any books in the house. My parents were poor. We didn’t even have a Bible. But my parents had romance and true crime magazines. And we had the tabloids you buy at the grocery store. Those were the things I started out reading. I didn’t read books until I was in school. But I took to books right away. And I’ve always liked to read.

Q: The relationship between brothers Cane, Chimney, and Cobb Jewett is dysfunctional but also touching. Do you have siblings or other family members who inspired those characters?

A: I have a brother and two sisters—all still around—but they didn’t have any influence. What happened with the brothers—is the more I work with them, the more I get to know them, I sort of develop feelings for them. And if I’m lucky, I guess that sort of shows through.

Q: As dark as your content can be, I’m always surprised to find myself laughing. The Heavenly Table was downright funny in places. Have you made a conscious decision to add more humor?

A: Yes, it was a conscious effort. I didn’t want to write the same book as Devil All the Time. But I’m kind of limited. I knew it was still going to be dark and gritty. So what could I do different? I thought I could make it bigger, try to put in more characters, make it funny. So I was consciously trying to do that. The humor—some of that just comes from working with the people at the paper mill. Some of them were excellent storytellers and they could joke about anything. And it was all pretty raw. You have to look for humor in dark circumstances.

Q: I’ve read that earlier in your career you labored over each sentence before you moved on to the next, but now you write a very rough first draft. Do the violent, gritty parts come out of you naturally in that first draft or do you have to go back and add that?

A: (Laughing). Oh, all that stuff just comes out easy. When I write the first draft it’s very rough. I’m only trying to figure out the story line, and then I’ll try to figure out how to separate out chapters. The book really gets written in the revisions. But I don’t have to work hard to add the violent stuff.

Q: The Heavenly Table is set in 1917, and the sense of time is very evocative in the book. What type of research did you do to bring it to life?

A: We have several good local historians around here who have written about the Spanish Influenza and about Camp Sherman, so I read all of their stuff. I read a couple other books that were a broad picture of how America was politically and socially at that time. When the war was going on, our reasons for entering, things like that. So for example, in The Heavenly Table I talk about people’s reactions to things like dachshunds and sauerkraut, and I lifted that right out of a book I read. And then other stuff—well, I pretty much grew up around people who lived like they were living in 1917, except maybe they had a radio or electricity. But they were living off the land, and living pretty rough. I don’t have to use too much imagination to think about what it would be like.

Q: All of your stories take place before computers and cell phones. How do you feel about those modern technologies?

A: Hey, I like to have running water and electricity, but I’m not a big fan of technology. I’m sort of pessimistic about the handheld technology; where the person is walking down the street in their phone and not in the world. I carry a cell phone but only when I travel. And I bought my first one this year. Never had a cell phone before that; never had any problems. But my agent kept hinting that it would be better for everybody if I had a phone. I don’t carry it around here.

Q: I do watch TV. Breaking Bad, Mad Men, House of Cards. I think there’s things a writer can learn from watching these shows, about the way they tell a story. Actually, the way that I write, sort of episodic, with short chapters that move from one character to another, is similar to some of these television shows. For example, in many of these television shows you might meet a character in the first show and then you won’t see him again until the tenth show. Somehow he’s still in the story. I do that. But you can’t get carried away with it. If you’re going to be a writer, you still have to read.

Q: Over the progression of your books the characters have come closer together. In Knockemstiff, many of the characters are completely intertwined. Has this been a purposeful evolution for you?

A: I think so. I want to try to keep getting better as a writer. Writing is hard anyway, but then to try to figure out how to push everything forward and also link all the people up, it’s sometimes kind of difficult. For the next book—it’s more along the lines of a “conventional novel” with bigger characters, not so many, not quite as fast. Sort of like with The Heavenly Table I didn’t want to write The Devil All the Time all over again—although I know some of my publishers were hoping for that—but I wanted to write something different. And better. I have a finite number of years in books left. When I can’t get better anymore I will quit. That’s it.

Q: What happens with most of my characters is the more I work with them, the more I get to know them, I sort of develop feelings for them. And if I’m lucky, I guess that sort of shows through.

A: Since I was a little frustrated not knowing how it all worked out for the Jewett brothers. Any chance we’ll hear more about them?

A: I was frustrated too! I like to leave the endings a little ambiguous as much as I can. So even though the reader is pretty sure what happens to Chimney and to Cane, I don’t really spell it out. But when I was working on the ending—and I tried a couple different approaches—the only thing that I really knew is that I wanted a least one of them to survive. My problem was I couldn’t figure out which one of them I wanted to survive. Once I made the decision it became clear to me what was going to happen.
Q: Any chance we’ll read more about the brothers, or have you moved on to other things?
A: My parents aren’t religious. I was never forced to go to church. But I grew up with people, the old nôngist, that I’ve always been a little jealous of that literally true. And I’ve always been fascinated with people who can believe in something No internet, no phone, nothing out there. couple reasons one, to get away from everything. And I’ve got a shed in the backyard and that’s where I work. —Donald Ray Pollock

Q: When you’re not writing do you think about it, do you feel guilty for taking a break?
A: When I’m working I work in the mornings to try to get it out of the way so I don’t think about it for the rest of the day. I used to write at night a lot, so all day I’d be thinking about how in the evenings I’d have to start writing. So now I try to get it all out in the mornings. I’m sort of always thinking about it in the back of my mind. But I can tell myself, hey I did okay today. I sat down there for a number of hours, and even if everything happened I did it—I was in the chair. I’ve got a shed in the backyard and that’s where I work. Couple reasons—one, to get away from everything. And two, because I smoke and it’s the only place I can smoke. No internet, no phone, nothing out there.

Q: Religion plays such an important role in both of your novels, and you use lots of religious symbols. I wondered if you are a religious man?
A: I am very interested in religion, but I’m not religious myself. I’m an agnostic. But I’m fascinated with people who can believe in something so strongly when there is absolutely no evidence. My parents aren’t religious. I was never forced to go to church. But I grew up with people, the old nôngist, where everything in the Bible is literally true. And I’ve always been a little jealous of that—man, I wish I could believe—because it would make things a little easier. To really believe, deep down, that if you follow a certain path and obey these rules you’re going to go to heaven when you die. And these people have an image of heaven in their mind, like the Sunday school pictures with the streets of gold and all that stuff. I’m just fascinated with it. I go to church. I like the ritual. I just don’t believe. My attitude—I don’t think you can prove it and I don’t think you can disprove it. So I’m sort of left up in the air.

Q: You’ve written some pretty disturbing scenes. Does anything you’ve written still haunt you?
A: No. Nothing in the books haunts me. With any of the books, except for the pieces I read in public I never look at them again. But there’s a good reason for that. If I would open The Heavenly Table and start reading it, all I’m going to see is the stuff I could have done better. And the book’s already published. I can’t torture myself with that, so I’ll just let it go.

Q: At the beginning of Knockemstiff you share the following quote: “All Americans come from Ohio originally, if only briefly.” What does that mean to you?
A: That quote is from Dawn Powell, who is a writer from Ohio who ended up in New York, who wrote four really great novels set in Ohio. I think it means that all people are pretty much the same in terms of their passions and their problems, in terms of their humanity.

Q: What does being an Ohioan mean to you?
A: People ask me all the time—why don’t you move? You’re a writer now, writers can work anywhere. And I tell them that this is home for me. Granted there are some things I would like to change about it, but I can’t. And I feel like this is the only place. After all that travel—I always feel a little uneasy, you can’t be there on guard—and it’s not until I get back to Ross County that I can be myself, or feel I can be myself.

Q: How has Ohio influenced your writing?
A: Ohio has influenced my writing for sure. The geography. The place. I grew up in Knockemstiff. Right in the middle of it. My mom’s brothers built my parents’ house in the 1950s and we had about 80 acres. And the farm next to us was 1,000 acres. I was out in the sticks. I guess when I’m writing I think of the place as another character, so there’s that. And people say my stuff is “hillbilly” or “gothic”—the people that I deal with. You’re not going to find them in New York City. You might find them on the south side of Columbus. I deal with hillbillies—with country people—and there’s a lot of them around this part of Ohio.

Q: My favorite thing you’ve written is one of the short stories, “Dynamite Hole.” Is there really such a place?
A: Yes. There was such a place. There was a little place on Black Run Creek called Dynamite Hole. And the story I got from my dad was that back in the late 1930s or early ’40s these two guys went there and threw dynamite in the water to get the fish out. And it created this sort of small stream, and you come to the dynamite hole that was a little deeper and hollowed out. We used to swim there. I don’t know if I saw any snakes, but you had to watch for leeches. When you got out of there you had to check yourself for leeches.

Q: You’re just coming back from two trips to Europe this fall to talk about your writing. All your books have been very well received in Europe. What kind of questions do you get from your readers in Europe?
A: Guns. In the States I never get asked about the guns. But in Europe I get asked all the time—why do so many people have guns? Do you own a gun? Lots of questions about guns. And in Europe people ask a lot of political and social questions. In the States everyone just knows we’re like this, we all know we’re crazy about guns.

Q: Is this what you expected? Is this what you thought it would be like to be a published author?
A: No. Not at all. My original goal was to publish one short story. I could do that so I would be satisfied. And then I went to graduate school at OSU and quit my job at the paper mill. It was one of the hardest decisions I’ve made in my life. I’d been there thirty-two years and all I had to do was hang in another ten years and I was going to retire. So when I went to OSU I thought if I could write enough stories to have a collection and get it published I’ll get a job teaching at a small college somewhere and that will be it. That will be a nice life. But I discovered that I hated to teach and I wasn’t very good at it. So I was stuck. What would I do now? By then we’d sold Knockemstiff. We did that while I was in grad school. So then I thought I’d write another book to try to earn some money. And it just went on from there. I never expected to be going to Europe or to have people talking to me about options on the books. I was trying to be sensible. It’s a very precarious way of making a living. And I’ve been very lucky I’ve been able to do it without teaching or working at Walmart. It’s turned out much better than I could have ever planned.

Q: What is this fall’s trip to Europe for?
A: It’s one more trip to talk about my writing. The books are doing very well in Europe. And I’m back there to talk about my career. And I’m still teaching. And I’m still writing. I’ve talked to the people there about my next book. I’m trying to get it all out. And I’m teaching. And I’m writing. It’s not an easy life, but it’s a good life. I’m just hoping I can keep on writing.

A bellwether is a sheep that leads the rest of the flock. With the exception of the 1944 and 1960 elections, Ohio has correctly picked every U.S. president since William McKinley in 1896. In his book *The Bellwether*, Kyle Kondik, managing editor of a nonpartisan political forecasting newsletter, pulls together statistics and historical information to explain how and why Ohio voters are so accurate when it comes to predicting presidential elections.

For readers who are fuzzy on how the election process works, particularly the Republican and Democratic conventions and the Electoral College, Kondik outlines the process and describes the maneuvering that takes place behind the scenes. He argues that Ohio has been the key state in the Electoral College for more than a century, and even identifies which areas of the Buckeye State have the most impact on the final result. An extensive bibliography and notes section at the back of the book provides additional information. Although *The Bellwether* includes a significant amount of statistics, it is easy to read, includes lots of history, and provides excellent insight into the election process and how Ohio leads the pack. An excellent book for concerned and informed voters.

**REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN**

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As a lifelong baseball fan, having seen my first game at Cleveland’s Memorial Stadium in 1953 on a father-son Cub Scout train outing from New Castle, Pennsylvania, I was looking forward to reading and reviewing this new book. Factor in the Indians having been in the classic 2016 World Series clash with the Cubs, and I pushed other books on my reading list aside to read *No Money, No Beer, No Pennants*.

Scott Longert has written previously about Cleveland baseball in *Addie Joss: King of the Pitchers*, and his familiarity with the team and its history is impressive. The 1920s lead off, as Longert reviews the pre-Depression ups and downs of the Indians. As with the entire fact-filled book, he is able to write entertainingly without the facts and numbers and details bogging down the reader, which I found amazing. Reviewers often don’t read every page of a book they’re writing about, but I really did go page by page, because Longert is that good a baseball writer.

In the late 1920s, Cleveland civic leaders had the city feeling confident about the future: the new Terminal Tower, a new municipal airport (one of the early ones in New Orleans), comes into the picture. He wanted to build a World Series of its own, and his efforts led to the construction of Cleveland Municipal Stadium, which opened in 1932 and became the Indians’ home through 1953. Longert does a great job of following the story while describing what was happening in the dugout and on the field through those years of economic uncertainty. There is not only game-by-game coverage (when needed to drive Longert’s story), but also at times inning-by-inning and occasionally pitch-by-pitch details. He loads the lineup with anecdotes about not only the Indians, but baseball in general, always aware of the Cleveland team’s place in the big picture of baseball and sports in America.

The annual meetings of baseball executives are covered well: which teams need what kind of help? How do they deal with the consequences of the economic problems their fans are experiencing without hurting their balance sheets? Cleveland, as an industrial city, was hard hit by the Depression. Slowdowns in the steel industry and auto-assembly plants left many without jobs. Relief claims rose, and shantytowns lined the lake. Most players in baseball were asked to take a ten percent cut in salary. Many players objected to the lowered pay. Yet the owners never reduced the admission prices.

Longert maintains a well-balanced pace, sometimes breaking from his narrative to fit in the story of a player’s background and rise to the majors, and the break is always appropriate to the text at large. I enjoyed the discussion of the beginning of live play-by-play coverage of the games on radio. Hard to believe now, but there was controversy about whether to permit such coverage or not, as some thought it would suppress attendance. The Indians were one of the first teams to permit radio, then faced the controversy over whether or not to allow advertising. After a trial period, live radio was banned in 1933, the year after the new stadium opened, based on the belief that people would stay away if they could hear the game at home as it progressed. However, radio coverage came back quickly, and the first live road game coverage occurred in 1935. That same year Cleveland hosted the third All-Star game, which had become wildly popular. It was held in the new stadium, and for the next eleven years Cleveland played in both venues: regular day games at old League Park, while Sunday and holiday games took place in the new big stadium where larger crowds could be accommodated for premium games. 1935 also saw the beginning of night games, which became well attended.

In 1936, the future of Cleveland baseball arrived: Bob Feller, who was still in high school when he began pitching for the Indians. He more than fulfilled everyone’s hopes for him, eventually leading Cleveland to a World Series championship in 1948.

As I read, I kept thinking: how did the author find all the details that saturate this enjoyable book? How did he learn that 600 pounds of hot dogs were ready for the Opening Day crowd at League Park in 1928, and a team of seventy-five boys were ready to slap mustard on each one of them as they were sold in the stands? Longert’s research is very impressive, and his writing is remarkable: he is able to sprinkle the text with amazing details while maintaining a high standard of prose.
His coverage of extensive game action is worthy of a professional baseball journalist. This book will be addictive to baseball fans who also enjoy reading about baseball. For me, it was a much-needed midwinter baseball fix, helping me survive until the pitchers and catchers report for spring training around February 20. Longert has hit a home run with No Money, No Beer, No Pennants. REVIEWED BY GEORGE COMMEADOW BAUMAN


Hearing the name Lois Lenski brings back memories of reading the Little books, featuring Mr. Small, and savoring Strawberry Girl and Phebe Fairchild. Perhaps you read We Live in the City or Little Sioux Girl from her Roundabout America series. We all have childhood memories of reading books written and illustrated by Lois Lenski. The author and illustrator won many awards throughout her career, including the Ohioana Award for Juvenile Fiction in 1943 for Raygun Suzette and a coveted Newbery Award in 1946 for Strawberry Girl. These are just a few of the many books Lenski wrote for children of all ages.

Bobbie Malone brings Lois Lenski to life in this study of her creative genius. Lenski was born in 1893 in Springfield, Ohio, and raised in Anna and later Columbus. She studied art at Ohio State University and was an illustrator for the university’s yearbook. After college, she trained in New York City while picking up illustrating and lettering jobs. Lenski then moved to London in 1920, where she illustrated her first book, The Green-Faced Toad. The book’s success launched her illustrating career. After leaving London and marrying an art professor and commercial artist Arthur Covey, Lenski painted commercial murals for department stores and businesses along with her husband. It was at this stage that Lenski’s career took off. She illustrated fairy tales and other people’s stories until, inspired by her son Stephen’s love of books and reading, she created picture books and adventure stories of her own. She wrote and illustrated her own works until her death in 1974.

Malone lovingly and meticulously recounts how Lenski researched her subjects, interviewed students and townpeople, lived among them for weeks at a time, and conducted historical fiction, contemporary stories, and even didactic works on life in cities and rural areas. Despite chronic ill health, Lenski worked on multiple books for different age groups, completing text and illustrations for two or three titles a year for most of her fifty-year career.

Malone weaves Lenski’s prolific career into the study of picture books and juvenile fiction. Readers will learn about the development of children’s books and their place in schools and homes throughout America from the 1940s through the early 1970s. What was so appealing about Lenski’s books? Malone includes quotes from children of all ages who describe their delight at reading about people just like themselves. Lenski was a master at taking the stories she heard in the dialect of an area and constructing stories about real people, places, and events. Her stories stood in sharp contrast to the fairy tales that were all the rage at the time. Her books were replete with simple line drawings and subtle color washes that emphasized activities children could act out.

With an academic yet readable flair, Malone explains the philosophy and theory behind Lenski’s drawings—how they suit growing minds, curious toddlers, and adventurous pre-teens. This biography follows the evolution of Lenski’s art and creativity, but does not include direct quotes about her motives or rationales. Instead, Malone uses indirect quotes and digressions to elucidate Lenski’s attitude about her own works.

Copious endnotes direct readers to articles by and about Lenski, to works about juvenile fiction, and to her numerous awards. A list of works Lenski authored and illustrated is included for easy reference. Also, there is neither a bibliography of works Malone consulted and incorporated into this biography nor a list of works that Lenski only illustrated, articles written, or speeches presented. Readers must search elsewhere for a complete bibliography of this prolific author’s work. This would be a huge research project of its own, as in the last years of her life, Lenski sent drawings, sketches, and manuscript drafts of her work to academic institutions and public libraries in the towns and cities that were the inspiration for her stories. Indeed, she did the same with her husband’s works after his death. Given the scattered nature of the output of Lenski’s career, Malone’s biography is even more impressive. Malone gathered information and resources from across the country, mining special collections in libraries and publishers’ archives (although not all of the repositories is included in the back matter).

This biography is a paean to the incredible work of a prolific illustrator and author who touched the lives of children and their parents from 1920 until 1974. Readers will be reminded of their childhood and enchanted all over again by the numerous illustrations—many of children and their parents from 1920 until 1974. Readers will be reminded of their childhood and enchanted all over again by the numerous illustrations.

Sroufe, Del. The China Study Quick & Easy Cookbook: Cook Once, Eat All Week with Whole Food, Plant-Based Recipes. BenBella Books (Dallas, TX) 2015. PB $19.95.

In The China Study Quick & Easy Cookbook, Del Sroufe presents a yummy selection of healthy, plant-based recipes. The book is designed with recipes listed in various meal planning categories, from breakfast dishes to sandwiches, entrees, desserts, and everything in between. All recipes are convenient and easy, especially for a busy lifestyle. Weekly menu planning tips provide suggestions for coordinating foods and preparation time. Each recipe contains dietary symbols to extend the understanding of the plant-based, healthy lifestyle.

The many recipe options in Sroufe’s newest cookbook make meal planning and cooking a joy. I especially enjoyed the two oatmeal cookie recipes, one for Oatmeal-Raisin Cookies and the other for Banana-Peanut Butter Cookies. Neither recipe uses white sugar or flour but includes unsweetened applesauce and whole wheat flour instead. Other tempting options include Potato Salad with Pine Nuts, Olives, and Dill or Barbacoa Mushroom Burritos. This cookbook is a wonderful resource for making recipes for all meals and is also a good reference source for nutritional categories and meal planning ideas. The China Study Quick & Easy Cookbook proves that one can produce a quick, easy, and delicious meal without sacrificing health and nutrition. REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTLE L. STIVERSON

FICTION


The Garden District in New Orleans has a new store, The Purry Godmother, which caters to pet lovers. Lacy Marie Crocker bakes up organic pet treats and will dress your pet in style. Lacy has put her New York fashion design degree to good use making coats, hats, boots, and costumes for the discriminating pet.

One night, while collecting costume supplies from the storeroom of Purry Godmother, Lacy is startled by a thief. She sprays him with glitter as she is running out the back door, then quickly runs around to the front of the store to call 911. However, when the police arrive, the thief is dead. Detective Jake Oliver investigates, and Lacy becomes the prime suspect. With her business investor wanting out and her own freedom at stake, Lacy decides to investigate the crime herself. You’ll figure out the plot but not the culprit until the very end.

Julie Chase’s new series, Kitty Couture, is delightful and witty. (It also includes recipes for Lacy’s pet treats.) This cozy mystery is perfect for an airplane trip this winter.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN
The book was a really good book to read. It was a very colorful with rainbows, dinosaurs, and robots. One else lives there. They realize it is too crowded. They think that no monkeys live on an island. Soon they discover two little dogs that jump like frogs. That night, they meet many more silly animal friends. Hillenbrand. It is a story written by Olivier Dunrea and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. It is a story about two monkeys. The monkeys live on an island and they think that no one else lives there. They claim that there is only room for the two of them. Soon they discover two little dogs that jump like frogs. That night, they meet many more silly animal friends including five little geese all named Maurice. The monkeys think that it’s okay to share the island. Soon they realize it is too crowded. The book was a really good book to read. It was a very funny and silly story. I think that Me and Annie McPhee has very easy vocabulary and repeats words and phrases which is good for younger readers. Will Hillenbrand’s colorful illustrations do a very good job of telling the story as well. It can help preschoolers with counting skills to ten because it counts the animals on the island down from ten to one, kind of like the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”

REVIEWED BY KATHERINE NIVEN, GRADE 4


Me and Annie McPhee is written by Olivier Dunrea and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. It is a story about two monkeys. The monkeys live on an island and they think that no one else lives there. They claim that there is only room for the two of them. Soon they discover two little dogs that jump like frogs. That night, they meet many more silly animal friends including five little geese all named Maurice. The monkeys think that it’s okay to share the island. Soon they realize it is too crowded. The book was a really good book to read. It was a very funny and silly story. I think that Me and Annie McPhee has very easy vocabulary and repeats words and phrases which is good for younger readers. Will Hillenbrand’s colorful illustrations do a very good job of telling the story as well. It can help preschoolers with counting skills to ten because it counts the animals on the island down from ten to one, kind of like the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”


Notable Notebooks, by Jessica Fries-Gaither, is a book about scientists’ notebooks and how they are important to scientists and their work. It is a very good book to symbolize the importance of a scientist. The book explains how notebooks are a vital tool for a scientist.

Notebooks help scientists understand what they observe. Examples include how Galileo wrote about planets orbiting the sun, and how Isaac Newton had lots of numbers in his book that helped him figure out the theory of gravity, and how Maria Mitchell drew the stars.

We would recommend this book to people ages five and up, because it has complicated words that younger people might not understand. It would also be a good book for a teacher to use in his or her classroom. As students, we now know why we use notebooks in science class and why we keep graphs, facts, and pictures in our notebooks.

REVIEWED BY SEELAN HAZAR & OPELHA LONZO, GRADE 4


In Loren Long’s book Otis and the Kittens, Otis is a tractor that lives on a farm. There has been no rain for a while, and it is hot, hot, hot. Otis likes to play tug-of-war with all of his friends. One day he is playing with his friends and he sees an orange tabby cat. When he is about to go see where it is coming from, he sees a large puff of dark smoke. The smoke is coming out of the old barn. Otis rushes down to try to save the tabby cat’s life and all of the kittens. He successfully saves six kittens but accidentally forgets one. He has to go back to the old barn to save the last kitten. When he gets the kitten to safety, he goes around the barn but then the floor collapses and Otis falls into it. Read the book to find out if he will be okay.

We recommend this book for younger children around the ages of 4-7 because it talks about friendship and helping your friends. The book shows kindness and bravery, which is good for children. A lesson Otis teaches is to never give up and to keep trying. In conclusion, Otis and the Kittens is a wonderful children’s book and has wonderful pictures!

REVIEWED BY GWYN SMITH & JAYNE MCDONALD, GRADE 4


Isaiah is a mouse who loves his family, adores people food, and is a shocking shade of blue. This is nothing unusual to his brothers and sisters, who all gained colorful fur and special abilities from their life as lab experiments. But when Isaiah and his siblings attempt an escape from the Horrible Place, Isaiah gets separated and finds himself all alone. He meets a colony of “normal” mice who spend their time swiping food from the messy suburban house they live beneath. They can’t read; they can’t speak people words; and they are definitely not blue. But with his intelligence and compassion, Isaiah becomes an asset to his new adopted family. He enjoys being part of the clan (especially when a lovely girl mouse named Mikayla catches his eye), but he feels like he is hiding his true self and misses his family still trapped in the laboratory.

Everything changes when Isaiah meets a human in the neighborhood named Hailey. She also stands out as...
We recommend this book for young children and early readers, because it is short and descriptive but not confusing. It is appropriate for all children and also is a cute book.

**REVIEWED BY VICTORIA TRAN & GRETA BAUER, GRADE 4**

**Stiverson, Aileen. Quack and Daisy: Beyond the Meadow.**

Tate Publishing (Mustang, OK) 2016. PB $8.99.

In Aileen Stewart’s Quack and Daisy: Beyond the Meadow, the reader meets a duck and a kitten. Quack and Daisy are best friends who are very curious and like to play in the meadow by the farm. Quack is a duckling, and Daisy is a grey and white kitten. Mama Duck told Quack not to go beyond the meadow, because it is dangerous. They wonder what is dangerous towards the end of the meadow, so they go and try to see why Mama Duck doesn’t want them going there. Will they follow Mama Duck’s rules, or will they go past the meadow where their curiosity leads them?

This book teaches about friendship and listening to your parents. If you want to learn more, read Quack and Daisy: Beyond the Meadow by Aileen Stewart.

**WARD, LINDSAY. The Importance of Being 3.**


The Importance of Being 3, by Lindsay Ward, is a good book for kids that are three and want to learn about their three-year-old life. This book is a clean, cute book; little kids will enjoy it.

We recommend this book to three year olds that have a heart for adventure. We enjoyed reading this book and have three-year-old friends who also will like reading The Importance of Being 3.

**REVIEWED BY GILLIAN SPANGLER & ELISE BARBER, GRADE 4**
NONFICTION


With topics ranging from antebellum abolitionists to the legacy of Reconstruction, the essays in this volume address the importance of democracy and race both during and after the Civil War.


In 1793, when French queen Marie Antoinette was sent to the “waiting room for the guillotine.” This book honors the winners of the club’s Citizen Legion of Honor Award, and in doing so highlights sixty-five years of community service in the Gem City.


Literary Cincinnati takes the reader on a joyous ride with some of the great literary personalities who have shaped life in the Queen City.


In this book, sociologist Howard Bean details and thoroughly researched account paints a vivid picture of the queen’s last days.


In the summer of 1976, high-school French teacher Reid Lewis, along with six teachers and sixteen students, set out to recreate La Salle’s historic journey from Montreal to the end of the Mississippi River. During the eight-month, 3,100-mile journey, they wore clothes and paddled canoes they had made themselves without the use of modern tools, gave presentations about the original expedition in communities along their route, and discovered themselves along the way.


Literary Cincinnati takes the reader on a joyous ride with some of the great literary personalities who have shaped life in the Queen City.

Davies, Richard O. The Main Event: Boxing in Nevada from the Mining Camps to the Las Vegas Strip. Univ. of Nevada Press (Reno, NV) 2014. HC $29.95.

In 1897, Nevada became the first state to legalize boxing (in order to stage the Corbett-Fitzsimmons world heavyweight championship).


Twenty years ago, Shawn and Beth Dougherty moved onto property deemed “not suitable for agriculture.” Today, they obtain ninety percent of their food from that same property. This book describes the methods the Doughertys used to rehabilitate the soil through pasture management, select livestock, and minimize or eliminate the use of commercial chemicals.


Professional storyteller and educator Lyn Ford provides storytelling tips and techniques as well as a selection of not-too-scary stories perfect for young listeners.


Cleveland sports fans didn’t have much to cheer about during the 1975-76 season, until Akron native Nate Thurmond led the Cavaliers to the Central Division title and the team’s first playoff appearance. This book documents the “Miracle of Richfield” from the season’s slow start to the thrilling playoff performance.


Novelist Robert Stone wrote stories filled with action and tension, set in locations ranging from a small college town to Hollywood. In this collection of interviews, Stone provided in-depth answers to questions about his works, his life, and the creative process.


In the early 1980s, Steve Howard left the U.S. for Sudan, where he would spend three years with the Sudanese government, a group that advocated equality for women as well as other reforms. When the Brotherhood came into conflict, Howard saw firsthand the difficult choices communities and individuals had to make as they tried to reform and practice their faith. In this book, sociologist Howard provides a firsthand look at both African history and modern Islam.


This revised and updated edition of Classic Cars counts down the fifty greatest Cleveland Cavaliers games from the team’s inception in 1970 to the 2016 championship.


For more than a century, Ohio voters have correctly picked the president, and the region’s influence is strong today. Concepts will help old eyes see the extraordinary people all around them.


Carl Lavin was a high school senior when Pearl Harbor was attacked. A year later he enlisted in the Army, which would take him from his hometown of Canton, Ohio, to Britain and eventually the Battle of the Bulge. Based on extensive archival materials including Carl’s letters home, this book follows an ordinary young man through extraordinary experiences.


The Cleveland Indians began the 1930s as the best team in baseball, but by 1937 they were struggling. Real estate tycoon Alva Bradley bought the team, filled it with star players, and built a new multimillion dollar stadium. But after the stock market crash in 1929, the crowds didn’t follow. Baseball historian Longert follows the team through the Great Depression as they chased a pennant that would eventually come in 1948.


When Keith Morgan began to learn more about the people in his life, he discovered that seemingly ordinary people often had extraordinary experiences to share. Nine stories will help open readers’ eyes to the extraordinary people all around them.


Historian Mangus traces Ohio’s military history from prehistoric times through the present. Content includes a comprehensive record of conflict within the state, military personalities from Tecumseh to Eddie Rickenbacker, and civilian efforts from recruitment drives to
anti-war protests. Includes a list of historic sites and suggested further reading.


This book documents the true stories of eighteen ordinary children who survived WWII Europe, where twenty-nine million civilians died. The children describe feeling fear and worry for family members at home and on the battlefield, collecting bomb shrapnel instead of baseball cards, scavenging for food, and experiencing the kindness of strangers and even enemy soldiers.

Mezurek, Kelly D. For Their Own Cause: The 27th United States Colored Troops. The Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2016. HC $37.95.

The 27th United States Colored Troops, composed mostly of free black Ohio men, served in the Union Army from April 1864 to September 1865, where they faced racism and inferior treatment in addition to the difficulties of combat. After the war, the men of the 27th publicly sought full citizenship and suffrage under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. In this first comprehensive history of the 27th, Mezurek examines not only the soldiers’ time in the army, but also their lives as veterans and the impact of their service on their communities.


As a young man, Winston Churchill was convinced that he was destined to become Prime Minister of England, and thought battlefield glory would be the best way to launch his political career. After serving as a British Army officer in India and Sudan, he arrived in South Africa in 1899. Just two weeks later, he and the soldiers he was accompanying on an armored train were captured and taken prisoner by Boer rebels. Churchill’s daring escape across hundreds of miles of enemy territory not only jump-started his rise to political power, but also taught him lessons that would affect world history forty years later.


Most Americans view the Civil War as a clear division between slave states like Kentucky and Missouri and free states like Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kansas. However, these border states experienced a “civil war within the Civil War” as debates about nationalism, race, and economics raged among neighbors, friends, and families. Phillips sheds light on the complex history of these states and shows how the Civil War reshaped American regions.


In 1898, on the eve of the Spanish-American War, a young army lieutenant named Andrew Summers Rowan was sent on a secret intelligence-gathering mission to Cuba. Although he failed, an entrepreneur named Elbert Hubbard wrote an account of the mission that made Rowan famous, resulting in magazine articles and two movies. Unfortunately, much of what Hubbard wrote wasn’t true. Here Rice shares the facts about Rowan’s mission, and in doing so sheds light on the Spanish-American War, the Cuban rebellion, and American diplomatic history at the turn of the twentieth century.


Although self-directed play is an important part of child development, increasingly structured school days have reduced opportunities for such play. In this book, artist and former school counselor Ziff provides a flexible toolbox to help parents, teachers, and caregivers promote relaxing, art-based play.


Just a generation ago, the Western concept of female adolescence did not exist in the Middle East; girls were expected to think her fairy-tale ending may have reduced opportunities for such play. In this book, artist and former school counselor Ziff provides a flexible toolbox to help parents, teachers, and caregivers promote relaxing, art-based play.


Although self-directed play is an important part of child development, increasingly structured school days have reduced opportunities for such play. In this book, artist and former school counselor Ziff provides a flexible toolbox to help parents, teachers, and caregivers promote relaxing, art-based play.
of the occult. But even Petra can’t identify the creature that’s killing wolves and leaving only their skins behind. Meanwhile, new sheriff Owen Rutherford’s investigation of a bizarre murder leads him to Petra’s partner Gabriel. Petra must outwit both the unknown creature and the sheriff before anyone else turns up dead.

Black, Lissa. Unpunished: A Gardiner and Renner Thriller. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC $25.00. When a copyeditor is found hanging above the Cleveland Herald’s assembly line, forensic investigator Maggie Gardiner suspects murder instead of suicide. In the past, homicide detective Jack Renner has used deadly force to enact his own code of justice—and only Maggie knows his secret. When more newspaper employees turn up dead, Jack may be the only one who can help Maggie find the killer.

Brinkman, Rosa B. Within These Walls. Tate Publishing (Mastung, OK) 2016. PB $17.99. John Renounger was followed into the ministry, and now serves as senior pastor for more than three thousand parishioners. But after learning that his father is having an affair, he now faces a decision: should he confront his father or shield his mother?

Castillo, Linda. Her Last Breath. St. Martin’s Paperback (New York, NY) 2013. PB $7.99. Police chief Kate Burkholler is called to the scene of an apparent hit-and-run that left an Amish buggy smashed, a dairy and two of his children dead, and Kate’s childhood friend a deacon and two of his hit-and-run that left an Amish buggy smashed. She calls to the scene of an apparent” — before being murdered, she searches for her father into the ministry, and now serves as senior pastor for more than three thousand parishioners. In the past, homicide detective Jack Renner has used deadly force to enact his own code of justice—and only Maggie knows his secret. When more newspaper employees turn up dead, Jack may be the only one who can help Maggie find the killer.

Costa, Shelley. A Killer’s Guide to Good Works: A Val Camden Mystery. Henery Press 2016. PB $15.95. When Val Camden’s best friend Adrian, a museum curator, returns from a visit to an abbey and discovers a priceless relic in her luggage, she invites Val to come see it. But when Val arrives at the museum, Adrian is dead and the relic is gone. When Val discovers that a monk at the abbey has also been murdered, she seeks the help of her best friend’s killer—and tries not to become the third victim.

Daly, Krissy. The Crax: A Mystery of Old San Francisco. Obsidian (New York, NY) 2016. PB $15.00. In the year since Sulis fled to the desert to escape the wrath of vengeful deity, the war between gods and humans has encompassed the entire world. Sulis’s twin brother, Kadar, has joined the nomadic desert armies, who are slowly hirin...
POETRY


In this collection of poems Lentes not only pays homage to her Appalachian roots, but also finds deeper meaning in everyday moments, “helping us notice the daily simplicities and the people who live them.”


In this new collection from Matthias, the poet’s versatility of form is once again on display. Notes at the end of the book provide additional context for specific poems.


For more than forty years, the Kahiki was the largest free-standing Polynesian restaurant in the U.S. In this poetry collection, Santer celebrates this late great pop culture icon.


These meditations on pleasure, hope, and home are “the work of a vital, profuse mind undeniable at home in poetry.”

YOUNG ADULT


In 1940, Margret and Hans Rey fled Paris just ahead of the German army. Traveling by bicycle, train, and ship, they eventually reached the U.S.—along with a manuscript about a very curious monkey named Fifi whose name would later be changed to George. This new young reader’s edition includes activities and an interview with the author.


Two hundred years ago, the spaceship Horizon Alpha left Earth in search of a new home. When they landed on a planet covered by a salamander dance, they found a habitat as the scientists had expected. What they hadn’t expected were the dinosaurs. With the protective fence failing, rookie soldier Cedeh Wilde leads a squad in search of a lost reactor core. It will be a race to see who returns to camp first—the soldiers or the dinosaurs.

Not long after leaving Sweden for a new life in the U.S., Isabella loses both her parents and her factory job. Her only hope is to marry wealthy Donald Jenko, who writes beautiful letters about life in Ohio. But on the train she meets Tom, a Pinkerton agent who saves her from an attempted abduction. Will Isabella make it safely to Ohio—and is Donald really the man she is supposed to marry?


Eight-year-old “Skinny” Delgado’s family fled Castro’s Cuba in 1959, leaving a mansion in Havana for a bungalow in Miami. Over the next ten years, the family struggles to find a place in this strange new culture, and Skinny longs for the girl next door, who is “everything American—and everything he’s not.”


When strangers Finn and Violet have a flirtation on a Florida beach but fail to learn each other’s names, Finn posts a message on an online “missed connections” page—but Violet is not the one who answers the message. Six years later, Finn and Violet are back in Florida with their three-year-old son, Bear. When Violet returns to their hotel room to find Finn and Bear missing, she must reexamine everything she thought she knew about her husband, their friends, and their life together.
**BOOK LIST | MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S**


Harpster provides kid-friendly instructions for drawing a collection of aliens and robots based on letters and numbers.


Follow along with Steve Harpster as he uses letters to create cartoon animals and people.


Learn to draw dragons and other mythical creatures, from a baby griffin to the giant smork dragon, with Numbers.


In his trademark style, Harpster provides kid-friendly instructions for drawing adorable animals using lowercase letters as a starting point.


In this book Harpster provides step-by-step illustrated instructions for drawing creepy creatures that live in a haunted house, a slimy swamp, and other scary locations.

Holbrook, Sara. *The Enemy*. Calkins Creek (Honesdale, PA) 2017. HC $17.95.

In 1954, twelve-year-old Marjorie Campbell is surrounded by enemies: Russian communists she hears about on the news; her former best friend Bernadette, and new classmate Inga, who could be friend or foe. As Marjorie struggles to make sense of friends, family, and politics, she finds the strength to stand up for her beliefs.


This picture book tells the story of Emma “Grandma” Gatewood, who despite blackflies, bobcats, broken glasses, and a failed first attempt became the first woman to hike the Appalachian Trail.


Curley Hines lives in Wonder Gap, Kentucky, with his grandfather, with whom he shares a love words and a love of their mountain. But when a new boss takes over the local coal mining company, everything changes. Will Curley stay silent and save his way of life, or will he use his words to save his mountain?


In a little forest lives a Little Tree who loves his leaves. When autumn arrives and the trees drop their leaves, Little Tree hugs his leaves as tightly as he can. Year after year, he remains unchanged as the trees around him grow—until he learns to let go.


On a hot, dry day, Otis the tractor sees a tabby cat running toward the barn, and then sees something else—smoke! Otis follows the cat into the burning barn and carries her kittens to safety. But just as the last kitten escapes, the barn floor collapses, trapping Otis inside. Now the dependable tractor must depend on his friends for help.


The giant is so big that no bed fits him, so he tries to sleep on the hard ground. Because all the animals know he is kind, they gather around him each night for safety. But it's not until Og helps a man named Noah that he finally gets a good night's sleep.


Twelve-year-old Bridget loves horses, so when she gets a chance to spend a week at Rawhide Ranch, she's thrilled. But Bridget has one problem: she's never been near a real horse. When she arrives at the ranch and sees how big the horses are, she

is paralyzed with fear—and ashamed to admit it. Can she overcome her fear before the final horse show?


Luna the puppy has lived a happy life on a farm surrounded by her siblings and cared for by Gilberto, the son of migrant workers. But when Gilberto's family moves on and the farmer can't care for the puppies, he unknowingly sends Luna and her brother Chief to a puppy mill. When the two dogs escape, they set out on a journey to find their way home.


Twelve-year-old Nella's life is changing too fast, and although her former best friend Angela might understand, they're not speaking anymore. When Angela's older brother makes a split-second, fatal mistake, the community is torn apart and past secrets are exposed. Nella must reexamine her beliefs about family, friends, and neighbors and decide what kind of person she wants to be.


In this book, Stine traces the history of the Brooklyn Bridge from its design and construction through its designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1964.


This rhyming board book follows babies through their daily activities of wigglng, giggling, yawning, napping, and being loved.

**BOOK LIST | MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S**

Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant

Application deadline: January 31, 2017

This annual grant awards $1,000 to an Ohio writer, age 30 or younger, who has not yet published a book. For more information and to apply, visit www ohioana org/wp-content/uploads/ 2016/02/Marvin-application-2017.pdf.

Ohioana Book Club

February 15, 2017

10:00 a.m. – noon

Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio

The book for February is Epitaph by Mary Doria Russell (the 2016 Ohioana Quarterly? Contact us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

Do you have a literary event you'd like to list in the next edition of the Ohioana Quarterly? Contact us at ohioana@ohioana.org.
Save the Date!

April 8, 2017

We hope you’ll join us for the 11th annual Ohioana Book Festival, taking place Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Columbus on Capitol Square.

The festival will feature a book fair and book signings, panel discussions with your favorite Ohio authors, children’s and teen activities, food trucks, and more. We hope to see you there!